

Filed for intro on 05/16/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 318
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION To commend the special accomplishments of
Chris Buckner, the 2001 Gatlinburg-Pittman
High School Salutatorian.

WHEREAS, Tennessee students who exhibit exceptional academic ability and serve as outstanding leaders in extracurricular activities are deserving of special appreciation because they reflect great credit on themselves and their respective schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, One such noble student-athlete is Chris Buckner, the 2001 Gatlinburg-Pittman High School Salutatorian; and

WHEREAS, Members of his senior class appropriately voted Chris "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Most Talented"; he was a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, was listed in the prestigious *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, was a member of the National Beta Club for all four years, won the Talent Fest, received the Rotary Club Leadership Award, won the United States Government Award, and has posted a perfect attendance record all four years; and

SJR0318

00704226

WHEREAS, Despite a rigorous academic schedule, he has won numerous honors, including Magna Cum Laude on the National Latin 1 Examination, the World Geography Award, Student of the Week in World Geography, the Honors Biology II Award, the Chemistry Award, Magna Cum Laude at the National Latin II Examination, the Latin II Award, the Honors English II-A Award, the Geometry I Award, the Geometry II Award, the Anatomy and Physiology Award, the Advanced Mathematics and Trigonometry Award, the Honors English III Award, the Economics Award and the Advanced Placement United States History Award, and he placed fourth at the District Forensics Tournament; and

WHEREAS, This very well-rounded student leader excels at athletics; as an important four-year member of the school's cross-country team, Chris helped his teammates win the County Championship each of those four years and the Regional title for Division A/AA and eighth place in the State in 1999; he was a three-year member and two-year Captain of the Swim Team; and a four-year star of the school Track's and Field Team, serving admirably as Captain for three years; and

WHEREAS, He has, in the best traditions of the "Volunteer State," lent his time and expertise to numerous extracurricular activities, serving as a member of the Interact Service Organization, Beta Club, and Junior Classical League Club for Latin students, the school chorus as Treasurer, the Drama Club, appearing in the acclaimed roles of Gentle in *An Evening With Disney*, Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Harold Hill in *In Our Home Town*, as Master of Ceremonies for the Talent Fest 1999 and as Production Manager for Talent Fest 2000, and as Fiction Editor for the school's *Literary Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, With a strong feeling for the importance of preserving the environment, Chris has worked as a Husbandry Assistant at Ripley's Aquarium, as a Salamander Research Intern at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute and, as a Sugarlands Visitor Center Volunteer, and he has participated in the Friends of the West Prong River Cleanup; and

WHEREAS, A stalwart Christian, he is a very active member of Roaring Fork Baptist Church, where he is a member of their exciting Youth Group; he has initiated and led the Lost Child Ministries Food Drive, is part of their Drama Ministry, has led some very entertaining puppet shows at Vacation Bible School, has read the scriptures during the worship service, has attended *Share Jesus Without Fear*, and is a Youth Class Leader, teaching Bible studies and serving as the leader in discussions. He also used his great musical talent to serve God as part of the school Chorus's praise-sing at the Gatlinburg Ministerial Association's well received Good Friday Service; and

WHEREAS, This scholar-role model also is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, serving with distinction as a Co-Captain; he helps lead Bible studies, prayer meetings, and various programs for Christians In Action, a Prayer/Bible Study Group that provides the comforting Word of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, before class each day; and

WHEREAS, He has been highly praised for his work with the Boy Scouts of America. Chris reached the highest level of the Scouts, that of Eagle Scout, by erecting a much-needed Observation Tower at Appalachian Bear Center. He has won numerous Merit Badges and has served expertly as both Senior Patrol Leader and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster; he was also a member of the Philmont Expedition Crew, which involved a challenging ten-day, 80+-mile trek through the mountains around Cimarron, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, In his spare time, this busy individual enjoys running, swimming, backpacking, acting, and MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, being a faithful Disciple of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Chris is a highly praised worker for Photoline, where he has served as field photographer, senior trophy assembler, customer service representative, and sales representative. His extraordinary work ethic, diligence and dedication were also recognized when he worked for The Happy Hiker, as a sales and customer service representative; and

WHEREAS, His father, Ken, has been very supportive and is very proud of Chris's many accomplishments and community service his mother, Susie, was equally supportive until her death, and now looks down proudly on her son from Heaven; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend one of Tennessee's best and brightest young citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Chris Buckner on his hard work and on being selected the 2001 Gatlinburg-Pittman Salutatorian and wish him well in what we are confident will be a successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.